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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/685,336

10/14/2003

Robert D. Keefover

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1254

68945

7590

11/13/2007

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EXAMINER

AURORA, REENA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2862

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/13/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/685,336

Applicant(s)

KEEFOVER ET AL.

Examiner

Reena Aurora

Art Unit

2862

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8 - 9, 12 - 13 and 19 - 45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8 - 9, 12 - 13 and 19 - 45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

In light of the newly found reference the finality of the action is withdrawn.

Claims 8 – 9, 12 – 13 and 19 – 45 are being examined on merits.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 8 – 9, 12 – 13 and 19 – 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stauth et al. (6,693,419).
2. As to claims 8 and 19 – 42, Stauth et al. (hereinafter Stauth) discloses a proximity detector comprising a single sensor element (62, fig. 3), said single sensor element (62) providing a sensor signal that varies with the measured parameter; a first output circuit (64) responsive to the sensor signal and providing a first output signal; a second output circuit (68) responsive to the sensor signal and providing a second output signal, wherein the first and second output signals are two of multiple outputs from the single sensor element (62), and wherein the first output circuit (64) and the second output circuit (68) change the sensor signal in a different manner so that the first output signal and the second output signal change differently from each other during normal operation of the system; and a supervisor circuit (58), said supervisor circuit monitoring

the sensor element and the output circuits, said supervisor circuit forcing the first or second output signals to change to a diagnostics range in response to a problem with the sensor element or the output circuits (col. 4, lines 32 - 54).

3. As to claims 9, 12 – 13, and 43 – 45, Stauth discloses a proximity detector comprising a single sensor element (62, fig. 3) for sensing the parameter, said single sensor element (62) providing a sensor signal; shared circuits (60) coupled to the sensor element (62), said shared circuits providing sensing system operations; a first output circuit (64) responsive to the sensor signal from the shared Circuits, said first output circuit providing a first output signal; a second output circuit (68) responsive to the sensor signal from the shared circuits (60), said second output circuit (68) providing a second output signal, wherein the first and second output signals are multiple outputs from the sensor element; and a supervisor circuit (58), said supervisor circuit monitoring the sensor element, output circuits, and the shared circuits, said supervisor circuit forcing the first or second output signals to change to a diagnostics range in response to a problem with the sensor element, the output circuits, or the shared circuits (col. 4, lines 32 - 54).

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8 – 9, 12 – 13 and 19 - 45 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reena Aurora whose telephone number is 571-272-2263. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, P. Assouad can be reached on 571-272-2210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Reena Aurora

  
REENA AURORA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
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